

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 10, 2008

Prescribed Burning Certification Class

COLUMBIA, SC – Land managers who conduct outdoor burning can reduce their liability by becoming Certified Prescribed Fire Managers. Training sessions are scheduled for Columbia on October 2, Moncks Corner on December 9th and again in Columbia on January 10, 2009.

Conducted by the Forestry Commission, the one-day course teaches how to plan prescribed burns that comply with state air quality regulations. The regulations, called Smoke Management Guidelines, are mandatory for all forestry, wildlife, and agriculture burning in South Carolina.

Forestry Commission Training Director Leslie Woodham emphasized that this is not a beginner's course in prescribed burning. "This is advanced training in smoke management and associated legal issues," he said.

Achieving certification provides burners with limited liability protection under state law. Requirements include passing a written test, documenting one's burning experience, and agreeing to conduct all burning according to standards set forth in the SC Prescribed Fire Act.

To register for any session, contact Leslie Woodham at (803) 896-8809. The cost of the course is \$15; applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. The deadline for registration is three weeks prior to the course.

For more information on the prescribed burning certification class, contact Leslie Woodham, 803-896-8809. For more information about the Forestry Commission, contact Scott Hawkins, Public Information Dir., 803-896-8820, shawkins@forestry.state.sc.us.

*** end ***

Contact:

Becky Walton, 803-734-2182, bwalton@scda.sc.gov
Stephen Hudson, 803-734-0648, sdhudson@scda.sc.gov